

# The Evening Star Real Estate

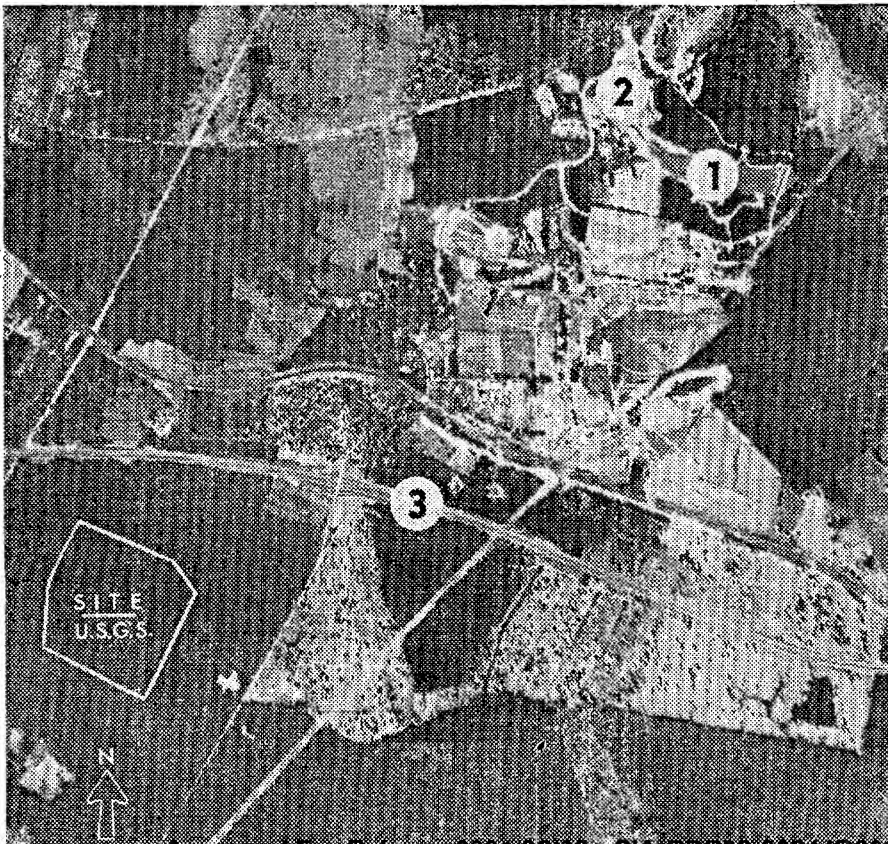
AMUSEMENTS  
COMICS  
TV-RADIO

SECTION C

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1971



Rendering of Geological Survey headquarters to be built at Reston, Va.



Air View of Reston showing location of Geological Survey Building. Lake Anne is at 1, Lake Anne Village 2, and the Dulles Road is 3.

## GS Building Contract Awarded

By JAMES BIRCHFIELD  
Star Staff Writer

Many employees of the Geological Survey are expected to become residents of the new town of Reston, Va., after a new headquarters building for the agency is completed there in 1974.

Reston officials have predicted that in time many of the Geological Survey's 2,200 employees may eventually live in Reston. It was pointed out, however, that many employees who are settled in other areas will continue to live there and commute to Reston. As new employees are added, they probably will live in Reston.

A contract for construction of a \$44 million structure was awarded this week to the George H. Hyman Construction Co., which submitted the lowest of four bids. Architects for the building are Skidmore, Owings and Merrill of Chicago and H. D. Nottingham and Associates of Arlington under contract with the General Services Administration.

The new building, which will  
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## Building

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be located in a 105-acre wooded area along the Dulles Airport Road 18 miles from Washington, will be leased to the General Services Administration for 20 years by Gulf Reston. At the end of the lease period, it will be turned over to the government.

Gulf Reston officials said the project will be financed by a construction loan from American Security and Trust Co. of Washington. Permanent financing arrangements were completed by Walker and Dunlop, Inc., Washington mortgage bankers.

GSA officials said construction of the Geological Survey facility at Reston carries out two of President Nixon's goals — locating federal installations in areas where there is ample low and middle-income housing, and where they provide an economic boost to new communities.

# Gas Firm Restricts Sales in District Area

By William H. Jones  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington Gas Light Co. yesterday stopped all sales of natural gas to new customers in the metropolitan area and said it could not increase sales of gas to any present customer.

The policy means that no new gas lines can be extended into new or old buildings, including private residences, unless contracted for prior to March 1. However, residential customers would be permitted to install a new gas range, for example, if there is already a line into the house.

President Paul E. Reichardt said the drastic curtailment is necessary because gas transmission companies that supply

utilities in this region have notified Washington Gas that there can be no increase in gas shipments beyond existing contracts.

The ban on new sales is subject to approval of regulatory commissions in Maryland, the District and Virginia.

Last night, acting even before Washington Gas submitted a formal proposal, the District public service commission scheduled hearings at 10 a.m. March 17 on the cutback. Because of the late hour, neither the Virginia State Corpo-

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Chicago and Miami facing brownouts in summer. A3.

# Gas Firm Restricts Sales in District Area

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ration Commission nor the Maryland Public Service Commission took action yesterday.

Cutbacks of gas sales have become common throughout the Midwest and Middle Atlantic states in recent months because of severe shortages of natural gas. In recent weeks, utilities in Chicago and Pittsburgh announced policies similar to that of Washington Gas.

Early in February, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. restricted new gas sales to residential customers, a policy adopted by the Washington firm last November.

There is much controversy about the cause of the present natural gas shortage. Although there is a plentiful supply underground, the gas industry took the position in the 1960s that companies could not earn enough money from their output and did not increase their exploration work.

Industry critics, such as the American Public Gas Association, allege that a shortage was created artificially to drive prices higher. Last year, the Federal Power Commission ruled in a number of cases that permitted producers to raise their rates.

For the long run, there are other sources of natural gas that should alleviate the problem, including imports of liquefied natural gas from abroad, production from the Alaska North Slope and synthetic gas production now being developed by industry and government.

The major supplier (83 per cent) of Washington Gas is Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., based in Wilmington. It is a subsidiary of Columbia Gas System, which is seeking government approval to build a gas import terminal on the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County.

A Columbia Gas spokesman, Bruce Quayle, said in a telephone interview that his firm has clamped bans on increased gas sales throughout its retail and wholesale territory—from western Ohio to the Maryland-D.C. region—"within the last few days."

gas company officers said, will be on the firm's sales, market-

ing and advertising programs. Spokesman Jack Raymond said it is too early to tell what cutbacks might be made in the sales staff of about 100 persons—already reduced by attrition and layoffs in 1971.

Retail sales of gas appliances will be affected, but since a large percentage of sales volume is replacements for currently owned ranges or clothes dryers, the impact won't be too severe, Raymond said.

Home builders, however, will have to use electricity and oil heating in place of gas for new buildings or renovations. Potomac Electric Power Co., the major beneficiary of business shunted away from the gas firm, announced recently that its outlook for the next few years indicates increased surpluses and an ability to absorb new business.

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